

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

UNCLAS STATE 039649

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM ISLAMABAD DATED FEBRUARY 13,
1978 SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS SLAMABAD 1539

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PAK, EAID, EAGR

SUBJ: PL480 TITLE I- WHEAT IMPORT SCHEDULE

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 12208 (B) ISLAMABAD 1150

SUMMARY: WE PROVIDE AN UPDATED WHEAT IMPORT SCHEDULE
THROUGH MAY 1978 AND REPORT ON GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO INCREASE
THE CAPACITY OF THE KARACHI PORT. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED GOVERNMENT WHEAT IMPORT PLANS FOR THE
PERIOD NOVEMBER 1977 THROUGH MAY 1978 WITH THE JOINT SECRETARY,
FOOD. PROJECTED TOTAL IMPORTS HAVE BEEN INCREASED FROM
806,000 TONS AS REPORTED IN REF (A) TO 1,057,000 TONS.

2. IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, THIS LARGER AMOUNT WILL INSURE ADEQUATE
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STOCKS FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PRIOR TO HARVEST
IN APRIL/MAY 1978. ALL OF THE INCREASE REPRESENTS ADDITIONAL EACH
PURCHASE IN THE U.S. MARKET (SEE PARA 3 BELOW).

PROJECTED IMPORTS BY COUNTRY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(000'S) OF METRIC TONS

AUSTRALIA	221
1 YEAR TERMS	200
FAC	21
U.S.	750
CASH	400
CCC	150
TITLE I	200
OTHER	86
TURKEY (CASH)	20
EEC (FAC)	25
FRANCE (FAC)	10
SWEDEN (GRANT)	20
ARGENTINE (FAC)	11
	1,057

3. A TOTAL OF 217,000 TONS OUT OF THE 400,000 PLANNED CASH PURCHASE IN THE U.S. HAS BEEN MADE. THIS LEAVES A BALANCE NOT YET PURCHASED OF 183,000 TONS, 70,000 TONS OF WHICH WILL BE USED TO REIMBURSE IRAN FOR A LIKE AMOUNT DIVERTED FROM THAT COUNTRY THIS MONTH. WE REPORTED THE DIVERTED QUANTITY AS 100,000 TONS IN REF (B).

4. THE ARRIVAL SCHEDULE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK OUT ON THE LATEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING PURCHASES MADE TO DATE IS SHOWN BELOW:

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(000'S) METRIC TONS
 NOVEMBER 1977
 THROUGH JANUARY 1978 200 AUSTRALIA

FEBRUARY 1978	169
21 AUSTRALIA	
70 U.S. - IRAN	
78 U.S. - CASH	

MARCH	239
139 U.S. CASH	
100 U.S. CCC	

APRIL	250
50 U.S. CCC	
200 TITLE I	

MAY	199
86 OTHER	
113 U.S. CASH	

TOTAL:	1,057
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5. YOU WILL RECALL THAT IN REF (A) WE HAD UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHEDULING IMPORTS THIS SPRING SO THAT NO MORE THAN 200,000 TONS ARRIVE IN KARACHI IN ANY ONE MONTH. THE JOINT SECRETARY FOOD ADVISED US ON FEBRUARY 9 THAT IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXPECTED ARRIVALS IN MARCH AND APRIL (239,000 AND 250,000 TONS, RESPECTIVELY) SPECIAL MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO INCREASE THE PORT'S EFFECTIVE CAPACITY TO 250,000 TONS PER MONTH. THESE INCLUDE AN OVERALL MILITARY COORDINATOR AT THE PORT THAT THE FOOD DEPARTMENT CAN CALL ON SHOULD SNAGS DEVELOP. PORT AUTHORITIES PROMISE AT LEAST TWO BERTHS PROVIDED THE WHEAT CAN BE KEPT MOVING FROM THE PORT AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME RATE IT IS UNLOADED. WHEAT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ACCUMULATE IN DOCK AREA WHERE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE PAST IT HAS SOMETIMES HINDERED DISCHARGING OPERATIONS AND HAS BEEN VULNERABLE TO UNSEASONAL RAINS. SUFFICIENT RAILWAY WAGONS AND TRUCKS ARE TO BE PROVIDED SO THAT UP TO 8,800 TONS OF WHEAT PER DAY CAN BE TRANSPORTED OUT OF THE PORT DAILY. A THIRD BERTH FOR AFGHAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED AGAIN DEPENDENT ON THE MOVEMENT OF WHEAT FROM THE DOCK AREA AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME RATE AT WHICH IT IS DISCHARGED.

6. THE JOINT SECRETARY FOOD IS CONFIDENT THE PLANNED SHIPMENTS CAN BE HANDLED EXPEDITIOUSLY. TO SOME EXTENT THIS HINGES ON FACTORS OUTSIDE OF THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT, I.E., ARRIVALS TIMED SO THAT THE BERTHS ARE USED CONTINUOUSLY. WE WILL BE KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THE SITUATION.
HUMMEL UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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